

Message Text

SECRET

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P 112347 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 090901

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS (3)

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR AMBASSADOR' S ANTICIPATED
MEETING WITH TITO

REF: BELGRADE 2011

1. ON MIDDLE EAST, YOU SHOULD SAY WE HAVE NOTED INCREASINGLY MILITANT TONE OF EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS, WHICH RAISE POSSIBILITY EGYPTIANS MAY AT SOME POINT FIND THEMSELVES PRISONER TO THEIR OWN RHETORIC REGARDING RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL. IN OUR VIEW, ANY EGYPTIAN DECISION TO INITIATE MILITARY OPERATIONS WOULD BE TOTALLY IRRATIONAL AND COULD ONLY RESULT IN CALAMITY FOR EGYPT AND SADAT. WE HOPE THAT LEADERS HAVING INFLUENCE WITH SADAT, SUCH AS PRESIDENT TITO, ARE WEIGHING IN HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF EGYPTIAN RESTRAINT.

2. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE HOPE SADAT WILL INSTEAD PURSUE
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POLITICAL EFFORTS IN MORE SERIOUS AND REALISTIC MANNER THAN IN PAST. USG DID NOT OPPOSE EGYPTIAN CALL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. WE NEVERTHELESS SEE POTENTIAL DANGERS IN SUCH AN EXERCISE IN THE SC. EGYPTIAN CALL FOR SC REVIEW REFLECTS ONCE AGAIN CAIRO' S UNREALISTIC PHILOSOPHY THAT SOMEONE ELSE CAN SOLVE EGYPT' S PROBLEMS,

WHEREAS IN FACT ONLY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS-- DIRECT OR INDIRECT-- BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL CAN BRING ABOUT PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE ARAB- ISRAEL CONFLICT. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS DANGER THAT SOME IN SC MAY ATTEMPT ALTER OR EXPAND UPON DELICATE BALANCE OF SC RESOLUTION 242 OF NOVEMBER 1967. THIS WOULD DESTROY THE ONE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL FRAMEWORK TO WHICH ALL PRINCIPAL PARTIES, ADMITTEDLY WITH DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS, HAVE CONTINUED TO ADHERE. IN SUCH A CASE, PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE DEALT PERHAPS A FATAL BLOW.

3. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL JOIN US IN SEEKING LEAST DAMAGING OUTCOME OF SC REVIEW. IF TITO ASKS, YOU COULD SAY SUCH OUTCOME WOULD PREFERABLY ENTAIL SIMPLE CONSENSUS OF SC PRESIDENT REAFFIRMING SC RES 242 STRICTLY WITHIN CONFINES OF PRESENT TEXT AND POSSIBLY REQUESTING JARRING TO CONTINUE EFFORTS WITH THE PARTIES IN MANNER HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE. FOR ITS PART, US WILL VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY SC ACTION TO ALTER OR EXPAND UPON SC RES 242, OR WHICH MIGHT IN SOME OTHER WAY UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO GET ARAB- ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. ROGERS

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